

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system comprising:
 - a first network for transmitting non-bandwidth-compressed signal; and
 - a second network for transmitting a bandwidth-compressed signal,
 - wherein a switching node of said first network includes a transcoder for
 - 5 performing a conversion between the bandwidth-compressed signal and the non-bandwidth-compressed signal and operable in a first mode in which said transcoder is inserted and a signal transmission is performed by performing the conversion between the bandwidth-compressed signal and the non-
 - bandwidth-compressed signal and a second mode in which the bandwidth-
 - 10 compressed signal is transmitted as it is without using said transcoder, and said switching node of said first network including means, which, when a terminal is moved to an area of a new switching node of said second network during the second mode, inserts said transcoder, inquires of said switching node of said second network about whether or not a setting information of said
 - 15 transcoder can be changed to a setting information for the second mode and, when there is an acknowledge from said switching node of said second network, changes the mode to the second mode.

2. A communication system comprising:
 - a radio access network for transmitting an audio signal as a bandwidth-
 - compressed signal; and
 - a core network for transmitting an audio signal as a non-bandwidth-
 - 5 compressed signal,
 - wherein a switching node of said core network includes:
 - a transcoder for performing a conversion between the bandwidth-
 - compressed signal and the non-bandwidth-compressed signal and operable in a

Transcoder Free Operation connection mode in which the audio signal is
 10 transmitted/received between a calling terminal and a called terminal as the
 bandwidth-compressed signal without using said transcoder according to a
 negotiation between said calling and called terminals;

means for performing a communication between said calling and called
 terminals in said Transcoder Free Operation connection mode and, when one of
 15 said calling and called terminals is moved to an area of a switching node of a
 new radio access network, inserting said transcoder for said switching node of
 said new radio access network;

means for inquiring, after said transcoder is inserted, of said switching
 node of said new radio access network about whether or not a setting
 20 information of said transcoder can be changed to a setting information with
 which a signal format on an input side of said transcoder becomes the same as
 that on an output side thereof; and

means for changing the mode between said switching node of said core
 network and said switching node of said new radio access network to said
 25 Transcoder Free operation connection mode when there is an acknowledge from
 said switching node of said new radio access network.

3. A communication system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the audio signal
 bandwidth-compression system in said radio access network is an Adaptive
 Multi Rate Coding system, the setting information for bandwidth-compression
 is a RFCI information indicative of a value of a mapping table for determining a
 5 conversion rate of an audio signal coding frame in the Adaptive Multi Rate
 Coding system and the inquiry of said switching node of said radio access
 network is to inquire whether or not the setting information is a RFCI
 information whose parameter on an input side of said transcoder is equal to a
 parameter on an output side of said transcoder.

the second mode when the setting information on the input side of said
 25 transcoder is the same as that on the output side thereof.

6. An alignment method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the inquiry of the
 setting information uses a protocol of a user plane of Iu interface defined as an
 interface between said switching node of said core network and said switching
 node of said radio access network.

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7. An alignment method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the setting
 information of said transcoder is a RFCI information of AMR coding system.

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8. A switching node operable in a first mode for performing a conversion
 between a bandwidth-compressed signal and a non-bandwidth-compressed
 signal by inserting a transcoder and a second mode for transmitting a
 bandwidth-compressed signal as it is without using the transcoder, comprising
 means for inquiring, when a terminal is moved to an area of a new switching
 node in the second mode, of said new switching node about whether or not a
 setting information of the transcoder when the latter is inserted can be changed
 to a setting information in the second mode and changing it to the second mode
 on the basis of an acknowledge from said new switching node.

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9. A switching node as claimed in claim 8, wherein said switching node is
 opposing to a switching node of a radio access network for transmitting an
 audio signal as a bandwidth-compressed signal and the setting information is a
 RFCI information in an adaptive multi rate coding system.

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10. An alignment method of a transcoder of a switching node operable in a
 first mode in which a conversion between a bandwidth-compressed signal and a

non-bandwidth-compressed signal is performed by inserting said transcoder
and in a second mode in which a bandwidth-compressed signal is transmitted
5 without using said transcoder, comprising the steps of inquiring, when a
terminal is moved to an area covered by a new switching node in the second
mode, of said new switching node about whether or not a setting information of
said transcoder when said transcoder is inserted is changeable to a setting
information in the second mode and changing the operation mode to the second
10 mode on the basis of an acknowledge from said new switching node.

11. An alignment method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said switching
node is opposing to a switching node of a radio access network for transmitting
an audio signal as a bandwidth-compressed signal and the setting information
is a RFCI information in an adaptive multi rate coding system.

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